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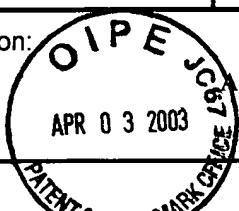
Applicant(s): John E. Bennett et al.

Docket No.

Q858-E

Serial No.
09/664,085Filing Date
09/18/00Examiner
William D. Hutton, Jr.Group Art Unit
3676

Invention:



ADJUSTABLE HINGES FOR ORTHOPEDIC SPLINTS

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

Continued Prosecution Application of 09/664,085, accompanied by Transmittal of Continued Prosecution Application Request (in duplicate) Preliminary Amendment, and Credit Card Payment Form*(Identify type of correspondence)*

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Bennett, John E. and Bradley, Willis C.

Serial No. 09/664,085

Filed: September 18, 2000

Title: ADJUSTABLE HINGES FOR ORTHOPEDIC SPINTS

Patent Examiner: Hutton, Jr. William D.

Group Art Unit: 3676

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN CONTINUED PROSECUTION APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in response to the Final Action mailed on January 3, 2003 in the subject application.

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-17 and 22-25 have been allowed. Claims 21 and 32 have been objected to and indicated to be allowable if combined with respective base and intermediate claims. Claims 18-20 and 26-31 have been rejected.

By the present Amendment, new Claims 33-39 have been added.

Applicant's Claimed Improvements

The rejected claims are directed, among other features, to two particular improvements:

- (a) The tamper deterrent means recited in independent Claims 18 and 26; and
- (b) The "directional indicators" on the range setting wheels of the hinge in the embodiment of Figures 6-9 and recited in Claims 27, 29, 38, 39.